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John Allen Chalk

5-4-1966

From: George Gurganus

George Gurganus

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Harding College

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38117

GEORGE GURGANUS
PROFESSOR OF SPEECH AND MISSIONS

May 4, 1966

Mr. John Allen Chalk
P. O. Box 574
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear John Allen:

There has been a feeling on the part of many brethren to the effect that we need in our great brotherhood a periodical especially devoted to Christian mission in the broad sense of the word. Feeling this need myself and recognizing the interest on the part of many of the brethren, I sent out invitations for a number of people to have a breakfast together on the occasion of the ACC Lectures and to discuss the possibility of starting such a journal. As I recall, the following were present on that occasion: Larry Cardwell, Ray F. Chester, Dwain Evans, David Gatewood, Otis Gatewood, Abe Malherbe, Bill Martin, Prentice A. Meador, Jr., B. D. Morehead, James W. Nichols, Tom Olbricht, Edward Rockey, Eugene Smith, and Roy Ward. Reuel Lemmons came in for a brief time at the beginning of the meeting but had to leave for another appointment.

A brainstorming session that followed resulted in a surprising consensus. It seemed to be the decision of the group that a mission periodical for the brotherhood was needed. This new journal would set out to explore the biblical basis for mission and study methods for missions in our day that may be effective in overcoming numerous barriers such as cultural, racial and national prejudice. Such a study would also necessitate the re-study of the nature of the church.

Some felt that this missions journal should be patterned after Christianity Today or World Vision and should include articles aimed at various interests in the brotherhood, both scholarly and for mass appeal.

It was decided on this occasion to appoint Walter Burch as chairman of a committee to make recommendations concerning such a publication as to possible purpose, organization and finance, and

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that this committee would make a report to another planning session of the group and other interested persons on the campus of Harding College Graduate School of Religion, 1000 Cherry Road, Memphis, Tennessee, on Saturday, June 25. B. D. Morehead suggested that he may be able to finance the publication of the first issue of this new journal.

Walter Burch may be in contact with you in the future to secure your advice and other assistance in planning for this publication. If at all possible we would appreciate your presence on the campus here in our discussion and planning for this new venture on June 25. Please let us know if you can come so that we can make adequate preparations for your participation and provide any accommodations that you may need.

Kindest personal regards.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Gurganus", written in dark ink.

George Gurganus

GG/sh